

## Message Text

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44

ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FBO-02 A-01 SSO-00 /021 W

----- 041583

O R 230920Z MAY 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8149

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1221

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

FRANKFURT FOR RSS AND RMO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, CZ

SUBJECT: CHANCERY FACADE RENOVATION, PROPERTY 01228

REFS: A) STATE 117254 B) STATE 118429

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES ALLOTMENT BY REF A OF \$10,000 TO BEGIN FACADE RENOVATION. HOWEVER, UNLESS ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO COMPLETE RENOVATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE FIRST HALF OF FY 76, THERE WOULD BE NO POINT IN BEGINNING NOW, AS FUNDS EXPENDED IN JUNE FOR PREPARATORY WORK WOULD BE WASTED. EMBASSY ABLE TO STOP WORK AFTER PRESENTLY-ALLOTTED \$10,000 EXPENDED, BUT ONLY AT SUBSTANTIAL LOSS.

2. AS THOSE IN DEPT. WITH EXPERIENCE WITH CZECH CONTRACTORS AWARE, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS FIRM DATE HERE. EMBASSY HAS BEEN PUSHING CONTRACTOR TO SET DATE FOR THIS PROJECT FOR OVER TWO YEARS, BUT FIRST LEARNED THAT CONTRACTOR INTENDED TO BEGIN ONLY WHEN MATERIALS BEGAN TO ARRIVE A FEW WEEKS AGO. WE EXPECT SCAFFOLDING WILL BEGIN TO GO UP BEFORE THE END OF MAY, BEGINNING WITH THE EAST SECTION, FOLLOWED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION BY THE CENTER SECTION ABOUT AUGUST 1, AND THE WEST SECTION ABOUT OCTOBER 1. EXCEPT FOR ORDER OF SECTIONS, PRESUMPTIONS PARA. 3, REF B CORRECT. WORK WILL INCLUDE REPAIRS OF

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ONE METER OF ROOF EDGE AS NEEDED, AS WELL AS REPLACEMENT

OF ALL WINDOW FRAMES. WILL CABLE DATES AS WORK ACTUALLY BEGINS.

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS RSO TAKE HOME LEAVE AS SCHEDULED DURING WORK ON EAST SECTION, WHICH INCLUDES ONLY APARTMENTS AND LOCAL EMPLOYEE OFFICES, AND RETURN FOR CENTER AND WEST SECTIONS, WHICH INCLUDE RESTRICTED AREA AND MARINE HOUSE. THIS WILL ALSO ALLOW HIM TO WORK OUT PROJECT NEEDS WITH SY DURING DEPT. CONSULTATION BEGINNING JUNE 2. IN VIEW OF EVER-PRESENT POSSIBILITY OF DELAYS IN PROJECT, DEFERRAL OF HOME LEAVE MIGHT INDEFINITELY DELAY RSO DEPARTURE CAUSING UNDUE PERSONAL HARDSHIP.

4. HOUSING AVAILABLE FOR TDY SEABEES AND MARINES IN CHANCERY SCHOOLROOMS FOR LATE JUNE TO LATE AUGUST, AND AFTER THAT DATE IN TRANSIENT APARTMENTS FOR LIMITED NUMBER. EMBASSY WOULD PROVIDE TRANSPORT BY OFFICIAL VEHICLE AS NEEDED.

5. RSO PLANS ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLATIONS IN ATTIC AREA AFFECTED BY RENOVATIONS WHICH WILL PROVIDE VISUAL COVERAGE AND INTRUSION DETECTION FOR SURVEILLANCE PERSONNEL. THIS EQUIPMENT WILL BE RELOCATED AS WORK PROGRESSES THROUGH THE THREE PHASES. ANTI-INTRUSION DEVICES ARE TO BE INSTALLED ON SCAFFOLDING DURING NON-WORKING PERIODS. RSO REQUESTED TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM RTC FRANKFURT DURING RECENT VISIT.

6. IN VIEW ABOVE, RSO RECOMMENDS FOLLOWING TDY PERSONNEL:

A. PHASE 1, EAST WING; TWO SEABEES AND TWO TDY MARINES.

B. PHASE 2, CENTER WING: THREE SEABEES AND TWO MARINES.

C. PHASE 3, WEST WING: TWO SEABEES AND TWO MARINES.

D. A TDY RSO VISIT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DURING PHASE 1 TO ORGANIZE EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS.

7. OBVIOUSLY, FACADE RENOVATION IS NOT AN EMERGENCY PROJECT  
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AND CAN BE DEFERRED IF REALLY NECESSARY, BUT WITH FOLLOWING COSTS:

A. IT MIGHT TAKE SEVERAL YEARS TO PERSUADE CONTRACTOR TO AGAIN SCHEDULE PROJECT, LEAVING EMBASSY WITH FACADE MORE AND MORE AN EYESORE XFA OTHER BUILDINGS IN THE HISTORIC SECTION OF PRAGUE ARE RENOVATED.

B. COST, WHICH HAS REMAINED AS BDEXESTED TWO YEARS AGO, WILL DOUBTLESS INCREASE.

C. STORAGE OF COMPLETE SET OF NEW WINDOW FRAMES, COMPLETED BY CONTRACT CARPENTER OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS, WILL RISK DETERIORATION OF FRAMES, AND TAKE LIMITED CHANCERY STORAGE SPACE SO THAT STORAGE WILL HAVE TO BE PAID COMMERCIALY FOR OTHER OFFICIAL PROPERTY AND SHIPMENTS.  
PERRY

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